

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Shepard Building

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N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications – (401) 222-8471

Embargo until: Immediate release – Monday, February 25, 2013

Organizations invited to apply to participate in Summer Food program

Organizations interested in participating in the 2013 Summer Food Service Program for children may apply to the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE). The program, financed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, provides free meals to children from needy areas and is designed to initiate, maintain, and expand nonprofit food programs for children during the summer months.

Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, announced that the Summer Food Service Program for Children (SFSP), similar to the programs provided under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, would be offered to children during summer school vacation.

To participate in the summer program, sponsors must be public or private nonprofit school food authorities, organizations, residential summer camps, nonresidential day camps, or units of local or state governments. To be approved, a site must serve an area in which at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or the site must qualify as a residential camp or a nonresidential day camp. The provider must make meals available to all children enrolled in the program, without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, age, religion, or disability.

Anyone wishing further information on the program may call the RIDE Office of Finance, at 222-8936.

In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, RIDE is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). The USDA is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

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Telephone 401-222-4600 **Fax** 401-222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

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